

Sustainable Recreation Work Group

January 22 2009

Discussion Forum on “**Funding**”

Work Group participants attended via conference call and GoToMeeting®

Public participants listened via conference call

Attendees: Craig Partridge (Facilitator), Mark Mauren, Margaret Barrette, Robert, Dengel, Tami Ishler, Jana Greer, Commissioner Mary Hunt, Gerald Hodge, Arlene Brooks, Bill Koss, David Lipinski, Doug Schindler, Elizabeth Lunney, Jeff Chapman, Lindell Haggen, Mike Racine. Tom Allen, West Mathison, Will Chin.

Documents and meeting information can be found at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Events/Pages/amp_srwg_event_forums.aspx



FORUM OBJECTIVES

- Review initial background information related to funding. Determine additional information needs.
- Discuss the scope and the important elements of the funding issue.
- Prepare for the next, more focused discussion on funding and preliminary recommendations for deliberation by the full Sustainable Recreation Work Group in May.

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AGENDA

- **Welcome** – 5 min
- **Review GoToMeeting® techniques** – 5 min
- **Review Policy Context for Funding** – 5 min
- **Review Funding Information** – 30 min
- **Brainstorm** – 30 min
- **Plan for next meeting** – 5 min
- **Feedback** – 5 min
- **Wrap up** – 5 min

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Policy Context for Funding:

What is the Policy context for this discussion? These are questions that will help while having this discussion.

- What range of funding level is needed for a sustainable recreation program on DNR-managed lands?
- Who should bear the costs?
- What categories of funding sources are possible and make sense?

Throughout the meetings on this issue, these are questions we would like to come back to and have some reasonable answers to that should be explicit in the preliminary recommendations we bring back to the work group.

Review of Funding information:

Presentation is available for viewing at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Events/Pages/amp_srwg_event_forums.aspx

Background on Funding: Mark Mauren presented

- Funding Sources – Recreation Program
- Historical View
- Cost Estimates for Outdoor Recreation
- State and Federal Grants
- How Other State Fund Outdoor Recreation
- Recommendations from the State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Funding (SPORF) Task Force

Online Survey

We went out to the constituents and stakeholders to ask what were their ideas for funding. We are currently up to 700 participants taking the online survey.

All comments will be posted.

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Events/Pages/amp_srwg_event_forums.aspx

Most common Themes are:

- A real misunderstanding of our current funding sources and a mistrust of how we are spending this money
- Wanting to make sure what they are enjoying today will be there in the future for their kids.

Work Group participants Feedback

Additional information requests

- Other states’ use of lottery revenue
- Bills for recreation funding being actively considered in other states (GA; CA?).
- Size of fee-based revenue in other states, by object of fee.
- Size of all-source revenue in other states (especially for recreation on state forest lands)
- What funding sources in other states seem to be most durable and sufficient?
- More information on why SPORF Task Force recommendations weren’t enacted
- More information on the Legacy Trust
- What are the options for a “right-sized” DNR recreation program, including overall funding and major components, and the “gap” with current funding?
- What are the pros and cons of the leading candidates for funding? Major barriers?
- What revenue is currently coming to Washington state from recreation license fees (eg: hunting & fishing)?
- More information on the recreational immunity issue and fees.

Brainstorm Ideas

- Partnering with volunteers for capital construction.
- Legacy Trust-like ideas, maybe based on WDFW isolated parcels, and/or purchased trust lands.
- A portion of revenue derived from commercial recreation use of trust lands.

- Check-off system on car licenses (eg: \$5 to recreation, like State Parks).
- Make argument about greater General Fund State contribution, given increasing importance of recreation.
- Access fee with liberal credit for volunteer work.
- Percentage of various existing or new taxes, e.g.: visitor/entertainment-related tax.
- Access fee for hunting on leased ag. lands.
- Subject any existing or new funding source to a size and efficiency analysis.
- Ensure new money doesn't just substitute for existing funding.
- Recognize other potential claimants for new fund sources.

Process Ideas

- Provide a mechanism outside of meetings for group members to share their information about fund source ideas, pros/cons, etc.
- Provide a mechanism outside of meetings for group members to vote for their highest priority new fund sources to narrow the field.

Next Steps

- Materials in response to additional requests along with a categorized list of funding options will be sent to forum participants in early February.
- Forum participants will be asked to “vote” for their highest priority options from the categorized list, to allow for a preliminary narrowing focus.
- DNR staff will set up a Sharepoint site for forum participants to share information on funding options. More information on this will be distributed.
- The next forum discussion on funding will occur on Thursday, February 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.